



SYNOD OF MAR BABAI, CATHOLICOS. (497 AD)

Moses of Peroz-Sabour;

Daniel of Carme;

John of Abrasahr;

John of Beit Zabdai;

Hawah of Ballad;

Marai of Rima;

Moses of Nehargour;

Aphrahat of Beit Bagas;

Kodidad of Harbagelal;

John of Ma'alta;

Abraham of Lasom;

Abraham of Tahal;

Marahahmeh of Beit Dasen;

John of Merw;

Sila of Hormizd-Ardasir;

Yezdegerd of Souster;

Ephraim of Persia;

Marwan of Pherat-Maisan;

Abraham of Beit Mihraqaye;

Abraham of Gourgan;

Joseph of Rai;

Babai of Madai;

Ahron of Belasphar;

Berikiso of Beit Daraye;

Mihrnarse, of Zabe;

Paul of Seharqart;

Solomon of Beit Nouhadra;

Solomon of Carca-Ledan;

Elias of Hirta;

Emmanuel of Kaskar;

Boktiso of Karka of Beit Selok;

Joseph of Dayab

Akai of Pherat;

Osee of Nisibis, metropolitan;

Marwai of Beit Laphat;

Babai, Catholicos.

In the second day of the month of Tishri, of the year of peace, of the beloved Jamasp, King of kings, according to the will of God, we are rendered to the city of Beit Aramaye, by the orders of the King of kings, and the diligence of the woman. holy, God-fearing, Mar Babai, bishop, catholicos, we bishops of different dioceses, whose names follow:

Osee, bishop of Nisibis, metropolitan of the Arab countries; Akai, bishop of Pherat, metropolitan of Maisan; Joseph, bishop of Arbela, metropolitan of Hedayab; Bektiso, bishop of Karka in Beit Selok, metropolitan of Beit Garmai; Emmanuel, bishop of Karka; Elias, bishop of Hirta; Emmanuel, of Karka in Ledan; Job, bishop of Arzon; Isaac, bishop of Karka of Maisan; Solomon, bishop of Beit Nouhadra; Paul, bishop of Seharqart; Mihrnarse, bishop of Zabe; Berikiso, bishop of Beit Daraye; Moses, bishop of Peroz-Sabour; Ahron, bishop of Belasphar; Babi, bishop of Madai; Joseph, bishop of Rai; Abraham, bishop of Gourgan; Abraham, bishop of Beit Mihraqye and of Ispahan; John, bishop of Tous and of Abrasahr; John, bishop of Beit Zabdai; Hawah, bishop of Ballad; Marai, bishop of Rima; Moise, bishop of Nehargour; Aprahat, bishop of Beit Bagas; Kodidad, bishop of Harbagelal; John, bishop of Ma'alta; Abraham, bishop of Lasom; Abraham, bishop of Tahal; with other bishops who have adhered their letters and whose names are : Daniel, bishop of Karme; Yazdad, bishop of Herat; Papai, bishop of Sous.

We are all gathered in goodwill and charity, to honor and salute our Father, Honorable Mar Babai, Catholicos.

When we pass the cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon, we go to find in the charity of Christ this peaceable and amiable man, and he himself, according to the good will he possesses, rests us with affection, as the brethren and members of this paternal principle. He shows us the edict which had been addressed to him by the peaceful and benevolent Jamasp, King of kings, so that the bishops subject to his authority would meet near him and establish a reform relating to legitimate marriage and the procreation of children, for all clerics in all countries. And all of us, bishops, whose names are recorded above, in the same spirit conforming to the perfection of the laws

of Christ, have made the reforms which suit our people and our flocks relating to marriage and procreation. Children and we have allowed that from the patriarch to the last of the hierarchy everyone can openly contract a chaste marriage, with a single woman, to father children, and raise them.

We also admit, but only on this point, the assembly which took place in the country of Beit Houzaye, in the city of Beit Laphat, in the 27th year of Peroz, King of kings; as well as the writing which was begun at Beit Edrai, in the 2nd year of Balash, in the time of Mar Acacius, and was completed in the country of Beit Aramaye; and the true faith which was established by the authority and the doctrines of the holy books.

As for the anathemas and prohibitions which, from the 4th year of Kavad until the second year of this lord Jamasp, King of kings, were brought into disputes, outside of propriety, for human reasons, relating to ecclesiastical affairs, either by the blessed Mar Acacius, Catholicos, and (the bishops) his supporters, against the excellent Mar Bar Cauma, bishop of Nisibis, and the bishops his supporters, or by Mar Bar Cauma himself and the bishops of his party, against Mar Acacius, catholicos, and the bishops his partisans, we abrogate and annul them, by the word of Christ, who rules over all. Yet, let those who have been rightly prohibited remain under their prohibition even now. May all the writings and sentences written by the two opposing parties be torn up, and may no one be permitted, by the word of Christ, to keep them close to himself.

We also adhere to the orthodox laws that were established in the synods by the ancient fathers, and who rightly protect the honor and primacy of this apostolic seat of the great Church of Koke.

Now and henceforth, in the same agreement, the same perfect spirit, a charity exempt from trickery, we consider our brother the venerable and holy Mar Babai, bishop, as catholicos, leader, director, preceptor and governor; and we adhere to all things that will be done by him in the fear of God.

Anyone who in his pride or his conceited spirit would be hostile or opposed to this principality and this holy see of the fathers, and who would like to separate himself from the healthy body of his brothers the bishops of the whole East, will first receive we, according to the design of Christ, an advice and a request. We will ask him as a colleague, a brother and a confrere in the ministry, not to separate himself from our communion. Yet, if he persists in his opposition and does not listen to the advice of his brother bishops, he himself will be separated from our communion, and we will no longer have any participation with him in anything, until he comes, like a disciple, to find the patriarch and adhere to this writing that we have made.

We also maintain and confirm that the meeting of bishops must be held twice each year as was said by the elders, with the head of their province.

It had been established by our Fathers that the meeting of all the metropolitans and bishops would be held every two years near the Patriarch; but it seemed good to us

that this should be done now and henceforth once every four years, in the month of Tishri. If any matter arises and the Patriarch deems it appropriate to convene the assembly for any reason within these four years, all the bishops will attend with good will. And if anyone suffers from illness, or is detained by force, without seeking refuge in human pretexts, he who wills it thus will be imprisoned for the line of these (causes) and will send a notable person of his clergy, with his written consent. The one who, through contempt, would not attend these gatherings and refraining from coming for false reasons will be forbidden (to exercise) his ministry until he comes near the patriarch and adheres to what has been done in the assembly.

Concerning the church of Beit Laphat and Yazdad, bishop of Rew-Ardasir, metropolitan of Persia, having learned from the Catholicos himself that, several times, he invited in writing and urged the clerics of Beit Laphat and Bishop Yazdad to go to the synod, and that they neglected to come, we all carry this sentence and we entrust the matter to the hands of our archpriest the Catholicos: "If between this month of Tishri of the second year of the reign of Jamasp, King of kings, and the month of of the 3rd year of this King of kings, that is to say in the space of one year, Papai comes, adheres to the orthodox faith of the Church, signs this writing with his hand and seals it, or if Papa, without coming, sends through the hands of a person his written adherence, accepting the orthodox faith of the Church and confirming this writing made by us, we will consider him as our colleague in the Episcopate which he governs; and everything that has happened so far will be forgotten. But if he does not do so, he remains under the anathema decreed against him by this synod of bishops, in the Beit Aramaye. Likewise, if Yazdad, bishop of Rew-Ardasir, does not come, in the time fixed above, to sell and salute our Father, Mar Babai, catholicos, and does not adhere, in sincere charity and perfect consent, to all that we have put in this writing, he will be foreign to our ministry, and we will no longer have any participation with him; and, as long as he does not convert, let him be dismissed and deposed."

We have made this writing, all of us bishops of the various dioceses, whose names are indicated above, assembled at this moment near the holy Archbishop Mar Babai, Catholicos; we signed it with our hands and sealed it.

We have defined, furthermore, that any bishop who, during the time of the dispute, that is to say from the 7th year of Kavad until the present has been chosen legitimately by the election of the clergy and the entire city, would be accepted. received by us in charity, in the honor and rank of his episcopacy. But he who, in the midst of schism and discord and without the election of the clergy and the people of the faithful of his city, has stolen and usurped the title of bishop, we reject him, whatever he may be, according to the precept of ecclesiastical canons, and we distance ourselves from any participation with it.

1. I, Mar Sila, priest and archdeacon of Mar Babai, Bishop, Catholicos of the East, have signed this writing by order of Mar Babai, Catholicos, who adheres to everything written and seals it.
2. I, Pousai, deacon of the clergy of church of Beit Laphat, metropolitan of Beit Houzayi, have received the order of the excellent Mar Marwai, former metropolitan., and have signed this writing for him which adheres to all that is written above and is bound.
3. I, Elias, deacon and notary of Mar Osee, bishop-metropolitan. from the country of Beit Arbaye, received the order of our Father Mer, bishop and made a sign for him which adds to all that is stated above and seals.
4. I, Anphai, bishop of Pherat, metropolitan of Maisan, have confirmed this writing, and I have signed and seals.
5. I, Joseph, bishop of Arbela, metropolitan of Hedayab, adhered to everything that is written below on it, sign and seal.
6. I, Marai, bishop of Pherat, metropolitan of Maisan, have confirmed this fact, and I have signed and seals.
7. I, Hohmizd, deacon and notary of Boktiso, bishop of Karka of Beit Selok, metropolitan of Beit Garmai, I received from him the order to sign, because he adheres to this writing and seals it.
8. I, Emmanuel, bishop of Kaskar, adhere to everything that is written in Cidessas, confirmed by my signature and sealed.
9. I, Elias, bishop of Hirta, signed it in writing, confirming everything that is in it and sealed it.
10. I, Samuel, bishop of Karka-Ledan, have signed this writing and I have sealed it, and I adhere to it all the things written below.

11. I, Abraham, and Marai, and Simeon, priests, clerics of Mar Sila, bishop of Hormizd-Ardasir, we have brought a letter from him by which he joined this synod of the meeting of bishops, held by Mar Babai, patriarch of the East, in the 2nd year of Jamasp, King of kings. We received orders from Bishop Mar Sila to sign this document and confirm his adhesion.

12. I, Samuel, bishop of Beit Noahadra, have signed, adhered and sealed.

13. I, John, bishop of Merw, have signed this writing and have confirmed everything that is contained in it also sign.

14. I, Paulus, bishop of Seharqart, signed this writing and also confirm it with my seal.

15. I, Siha, priest and notary of Mar Mibrnarse, bishop of Zabe, received from him an order to sign for him who consents to everything written above and sealed.

16. I, Marcus, notary of Mar Berikiso, bishop of the Beit Daraye, I obeyed his order to sign for him who consents to everything written above and sealed.

17. I, Babai, bishop of Madai, have signed this writing, have adhered to everything that is written in it and I sealed it.

18. I, Ahai, priest and notary, have signed for Mar Abron, bishop of Belasphar, who adheres to everything written above and sealed.

19. I, Ahai, priest and notary, have signed for Mar Joseph, bishop of Rai, who adheres to everything that is written above and sealed.

20. I, Abrabam. bishop of Goargan, am proud of this writing, have adhered to everything that is written above, and have sealed.

21. I, Abraham, bishop of Beit Mihraqayi and in Isfahan, signed, adhered to everything which is written above, and have sealed.

22. I, Yohannis, bishop of Tons and of Abrasahr, adhered to everything that is written above, signed and sealed it.

23. I, Ifawah, notary, received orders from Araphat, bishop from Beit Bagas, and signed this writing for him who consents to everything written above and sealed.

24. I, Marai, bishop of Rtma, agree with everything written above and I have sealed it.

25. I, Hawah, bishop of Balad, have signed this writing, have adhered to everything written therein and have signed.

26. I, Moses, bishop of Nehargour, signed, adhered to the things written above and sign.

27. I, John, bishop of Beit Zabdai, signed and sealed it.

28. I, John, priest, have signed by order of Mar Sama, bishop of Perdz-Sabour, who adheres to everything written above, and I have sealed it.

29. I, John, bishop of Ma'alta, signed, agree with all the things written above, checked and confirmed.

30. I, Kodidad, bishop of Harbagelal, signed and sealed it.

31. I, Abrabam, bishop of Lasom, signed. I agree with all the things written above.

32. I, Abraham, bishop of Tahal, have signed, sealed and confirmed all the things written above.

33. I, Markhrahmeh, bishop from Beit Dasen, I agree with the things written below; have signed and sealed.

34. I, Soobhaliso, bishop of Balad, have signed, and adhered to everything that is written below and I sealed it.

35. I, Adourbormizd, priest of the clergy of Hormizd-Ardasir, by the order of Mar Sila, our bishop. I signed this writing for him, I consented to everything written therein and I sealed it with his seal.

36. I, Aba, priest and notary of Mar Daniel, bishop of Karmi, signed on his order; he consents to everything that is written below and sealed.